

EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS, APRIL, 1919.

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Farm work.—The month was generally favorable for outdoor operations from the Rocky Mountains westward and farm work made good progress in those districts. It was also mostly favorable in the Southern States, but frequent rains and continued wet soil interrupted farming operations in many central and northern localities, and at the close of the month work was generally behind the seasonal average in those sections.

Winter grains.—The weather continued favorable in most districts for the development of winter grains and winter wheat, oats, rye, and barley made satisfactory progress during the month; these crops were generally in good to excellent condition at its close. Growth of winter wheat was somewhat too rank in portions of the Central Plains region and lower Missouri Valley and some lodging was reported in eastern Kansas; rain was needed in some southern localities at the end of the month.

Spring crops.—Conditions were generally favorable in the spring-wheat area and seeding spring wheat had progressed to the northern limits of the belt at the close of the month, although there was some delay by wet soil in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The early sown grain in the central and southern portions of the belt made good progress during the latter part of the month. The preparation of corn ground was considerably delayed in many central districts, especially in portions of the Great Plains area, and it was too cool for satisfactory germination of corn the latter part of the month. There was some frost damage to this crop during the last week in Tennessee and the central Appalachian Mountain States. Oats seeding was delayed by frequent rains and wet soil in many of the important producing areas.

The first half of the month was mostly favorable for cotton planting, germination of seed, and growth of the early planted cotton in most of the eastern portion of the belt, but rains and wet soil were unfavorable to the westward of the Mississippi River. The last half was favorable for farm work generally, and planting and replanting made good progress, but the cool weather was decidedly unfavorable for germination and growth in most localities, while frost on the 26th and 27th damaged the early crop in the Carolinas.

Truck crops.—The first part of the month was too cool and wet for truck crops in much of the South, and there was some frost damage early in the month as far south as the interior of northern Florida. Thereafter, the weather was fairly favorable for truck in most southern districts, but it continued too wet for planting in many central localities, and in the latter part of the month there was some damage to potatoes and other truck from the Ohio Valley eastward.

Live stock.—Weather conditions continued favorable for pastures and ranges throughout the month in practically all sections of the country, and stock generally did well, although at the close of the month grass needed more moisture locally in the southeast and in the Rocky Mountain States and far southwest. Cattle and sheep were moving to summer ranges in the Rocky Mountain districts.

Fruits.—Fruits made satisfactory progress in most districts under generally favorable weather conditions, although there was some damage by frost and freezing temperatures in central districts and also in portions of the Atlantic and northern east Gulf States. In the Lake region the development of fruit buds was checked by cool weather in the latter part of the month.